

# INDEXA



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A non-profit organization for the enhancement of amateur radio, worldwide peace, and friendship  
Daily Information Session — 14.236 MHz @ 23:30z

## ***XY4KQ: Myanmar-Thebyu Kyun AS-167*** ***April, 2003*** *by Frank Rosenkranz, DL4KQ*

**O**n March 31, 2003, I departed from Germany to Myanmar for a stay of about 2 weeks. After my experiences from last year I was interested in operating from Myanmar and additionally from a new island that would qualify for the IOTA program. After some investigation I decided to activate the "Yangon/Irrawaddy/Pegu Region Group."

Using my good contacts of the last year, I received my permit to operate from Myanmar in only 3 days.

After a long trip via Dubai and Bangkok, with security check problems at Dubai because of my transceivers, I arrived at Yangon on late April 1st. One piece of luggage carrying equipment was missing but it arrived 2 days later. I stayed at the capitol and built my station as soon as the missing equipment arrived late on April 3rd. Setup was done during the night with the result that I was trapped on a dark hotel roof after setup of my G5RV because a diligent night watchman locked the roof door while I was working. I "broke out" with my tools and began operating immediately.

Early on April 4th, my spouse and I, accompanied by a liaison officer of the ministry, went by car to the coast on incredibly bad roads. Rivers of the mouths of the giant Irrawaddy



*Myanmar DXpedition, April 2003*

needed to be crossed and one time I was forced to rent a "private ferry" because I wanted to arrive at the coast during daylight so I could setup antennas.

At Chaungtha, our beachside QTH, we were checked by the local police. We then found our hotel but there were no rooms due to a reservation misunderstanding and full occupancy because of the Myanmar Water Festival. After lengthy negotiations, we made arrangements for a nice wooden bungalow and I immediately

setup the station and a G5RV at a height of about 20 meters. I began operating with an IC706MK2 for SSB and an Elecraft K2 for CW. I added a 400 watt solid state amplifier that improved my signal and increased the pileups.

The next day our liaison officer contacted local authorities because of my plans to visit Thebyu Kyun Island for radio operation and the day after we made the first visit to the island accompanied by police and

*(Continued on page 2)*

**inside...**

***INDEXA VP—ZL1AMO***

***Silent Key Report***

## Myanmar-Thebyu Kyun 2003.....from page 1

military. After negotiations, I was finally permitted to operate from the island during daylight hours. Overnight stays were not allowed for safety reasons.



**Traveling to the coast on bad roads.**

I didn't want a daytime operation so I met with the local army command who would permit me to operate for exactly 24 hours accompanied by local authorities for my safety. Arranging for needed materials, generator and transport were problems but the local commander, a very friendly and generous man, would allow me to use his car and generator while he remained without electricity in his private home during my trip!

This was not the end of the problems! Now the equipment began to create problems. Because of the extremely bad voltage quality of the hotel generator, my switched power supply got damaged and the voltage regulation did not work any more. The SSB transceiver switched off during transmissions and the amplifier overheated and blew all fuses which were finally replaced by wires! I reduced my mainland operation in hopes that the equipment would still run for the island operation.

On April 11th, a military car picked me up and at 9:30 we boarded the boat with all the equipment. Twenty minutes later we entered Thebyu Kyun and I quickly began station setup in one of the little huts. During this time I was watched by the local services, especially a guy from the

army whose responsibility was radio-communication, to see what equipment I would be using. Just 45 minutes after leaving the hotel I started to setup the antennas with the help of the local services. A short time later I switched on the generator and tuned on 15 meters where I could copy only 2 or 3 weak CW signals. Afraid of "Murphy," bad conditions and no contacts I tried a first anxious "CQ de XY4KQ" in CW. The call was short but the response was unbelievable! There must have been at least 100 stations monitoring the bands and waiting to answer me. My wife had a lot of fun watching my happy face!



**Thebyu Kyun Island appears as a white sand island. In reality, it is rocky and the center consists of a hill of shells where the locals have built a small golden pagoda, and one big and two little "huts" for selling drinks to local tourists.**

The next hours I was extremely busy with unbelievable CW pileups and because of the good discipline of the Japanese hams it was easy to run about 150 contacts per hour.

Around 12:00 UTC, I decided to change bands because I wanted to take care of the 20 meter opening to NA. The NA signals were "watery" and difficult to copy, there was a lot of interference, intentional jamming, and wrong messages were placed on the cluster; nevertheless, a good 80 NAs found their way into my log and after 750 CW contacts it was time to work in SSB before explosives were sent to my home address. 650 con-

tacts in SSB followed until I started again to take care of the next NA opening around 23:00 UTC. At



**Myanmar is also known as the "Golden Land."**

closing I used the time for a quick breakfast (rice and curry plus coffee) and an hour later I was lucky to hear the first JA signs on 17 meters. The signals were still weak but the QSO rate increased again to 150 per hour. At 03:27 AD5A broke the JA wall followed by N5UR but no other NA contacts followed and I had to go QRT exactly at 06:30 UTC. Checking my log I found that 1768 contacts were made from the island. Not bad for a 24-hr. single operator activity.

A short time later we left Thebyu Kyun and back at the hotel I immediately started to setup the station again to get QRV as soon as the ho-



**Frank, XY4KQ (DL4KQ)**

tel generator would be running.

During the following days I monitored the bands with the help of a battery pack on my K2. Normal elec-





**Frank, XY4KQ, at the Thebyu Kyun operating site.**

tricity was limited from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. "Extra voltage," if necessary, was charged "xtra (ordinary high...)." Paying fulltime but waiting about 30 minutes to get voltage was normal, followed by regular power break-downs up to 20 times an hour with long breaks. Sometimes the voltage was so low that a 230 V fan did not like to run anymore or was so strange that the refrigerator in our room started to move. The same happened during the night hours and



**Transportation can be very challenging at times!**

this made operation quite difficult.

My planned 80 meter activities were a let-down. I could not build up a vertical with tourists crowding the beach. Another problem was the high noise level produced by neon tubes all around and it was impossible to locate and switch them all off. On the higher bands I had no problems other than that heavy winds blew down the G5RV one night and I was entertained by a 24-hour karaoke show with big loudspeakers and amplifiers.

Until 30 minutes before my departure from Chaungtha early on the



**Future DXers of Myanmar!**

morning of April 14th, I stayed active on all bands with a final result of close to 6,000 QSOs.

I believe my trip was successful because I was able to give some of you a new DXCC or a new AS IOTA. In addition, I improved contacts with the local authorities and increased their interest in our hobby.

For further details (travel diary) and photos you can visit my webpage: [www.dx-pedition.de](http://www.dx-pedition.de).

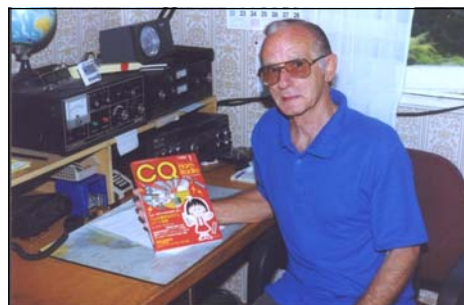
XY4KQ is credited for DXCC and IOTA (AS-167). QSL via DL4KQ either direct or buro.

In closing I thank INDEXA, IREF, and EUDXF for their support. I also thank the authorities and ministries at Myanmar, especially the MTT.

*73 de Frank XY4KQ (DL4KQ)*

## **INDEXA appoints vice president**

INDEXA is pleased to announce the appointment of Ron Wright, ZL1AMO, to the position of vice president. Ron succeeds "Pick" Pickard, WA5PAE, who became a Silent Key in late November 2003.



**Ron Wright, ZL1AMO**

For many years, Ron, renowned for his passion for DX and his numerous DXpeditions, has supported INDEXA by serving as an INDEXA director. INDEXA now welcomes ZL1AMO in the additional capacity of vice president. The professionalism, creativity, and commitment Ron brings to the job will benefit the future of DX worldwide.

## **Promote INDEXA**

INDEXA updated its Web site! Encourage friends and new DXers to visit the site that includes a member application. [www.indexa.org](http://www.indexa.org)

## **Time for a change?**

INDEXA members are increasingly switching to the e-version of the newsletter in order to save postage costs which, in turn, means more money for DXpeditions.

If you haven't switched from the paper to the e-mail version, contact Secretary-Treasurer, Bill Jennings, W4UNP. He can be reached by e-mail at [W4UNP@comporium.net](mailto:W4UNP@comporium.net) or by regular mail at INDEXA, P.O. Box 607, Rock Hill, SC 29731.

That's all there is to it. *Make the change today!*

## Silent Keys



Al Yerkes, NS6B, SK

INDEXA regrets to report that on 18 December 2003, INDEXA's senior staff member, Al Yerkes, NS6B, became a Silent Key. Al joined the Information Session staff in October 1983.

Al, born on 17 February 1910, lived a long, productive life and contributed much to INDEXA over the years. He will be missed by many and remembered for his gentle nature, his caring and kindness for others, and the crates of oranges he shared with fellow staff members during a special Christmas season.

His memory will forever bring a smile to the lips of those who knew and remember him.

INDEXA also remembers

- Ronald M. Williams, KZ5RO, who became a SK on 13 October 2003;
- Betty Reich, K9QV (ex: WD9GOV, VR6BR, VP2MFT, WD9GQ/EA8); and,
- George Gingher, W3ULI, who became a SK on 5 August 2003.

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